of students in Language, Mathematics & EVS at the national level is 58.57%, 46.51% and 50.30% respectively.

Ban on private courier companies from carrying small packets

212. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts purpose to ban private courier companies form handling from handling packets weighing less than 500 gms;

(b) whether in pursuance thereof Government would seek an amendment to the Indian post Office Act, 1898; and

(c) whether instead of banning the private couriers from carrying small documents/packages, the Department of Posts would update the skill of its staff and modernize its transit/delivery system to bring it at par with that of the courier companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Indian Post Office Act, 1898 is a more than 100 years old Act. In order to make it up-to-date and to be in consonance with the various developments in the market place and technology developments consistent with international trends, amendment to various existing provisions of this act, togetherwith introduction of new provisions is necessary. In this regard, various options are under examination which, *inter-alia*, include reserving the carriage of letters as excluding privilege of Department of Posts upto 500 gms. as against the existing unlimited monopoly enjoyed by the Department of Posts under the Section 4 of Indian Post Office Act, 1898. However, no final view has been taken so far and it is not possible to state any further at this stage.

(c) Updating the skills of the staff of the Department of Posts and modernizations of its transit/delivery system so as to meet its clients' needs an expectations is a constant and ongoing process.

Time concession in CBSE EXAM

*213. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMEN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education has spelled out time concession to the students for their examination;